

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, of which Claims 3 and 5-18 were withdrawn from consideration, are now canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. Applicant reserves the right to file the canceled claims in a related application. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and/or 102 based on US. Patent No. 6,892,185 by Van Etten et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Because Claims 1-20 are canceled by the present amendment, the §§ 101 and 102 rejections are now moot. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

New Claims 21-44, of which Claim 21 is independent, are added to the application by the present amendment to claim the invention more distinctly. Support for new Claims 21-44 can be found throughout the application, for example, in at least the claims and FIGs. 6, 8-10, and 14 as originally filed. No new matter is introduced. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

For the reasons discussed below, new Claims 21-44 are not disclosed by Van Etten and, therefore, Claims 21-44 are in condition for allowance.

New independent Claim 21 is directed to a computer implemented catalog system for electronic creation, management and viewing of product information using a multimedia display system. A central database stores product information or solution information according to an object model representing the product information. The object model includes parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business rules objects and procurement rule objects. The configuration business rules objects are stored according to a hierarchy by storing sub-products that a product is comprised of, including storing its product part replacement information. The database uses a meta data system to describe the product information. The meta data system is capable of dynamic reconfiguration of user applications when i) new product types are added to the database, or ii) changes are made to a multimedia display user interface in communication with the database. A content translator, in communication with the database, converts unstructured product content into structured product content based on the object model and the meta data system. The content translator indexes the structured product content in the database to create at least a portion of the product information.

The user applications are in communication with the database, and use the object model and the meta data system. The user applications include a catalog application and a bill of materials application. One or more of the user applications configure and design a product solution based on the configuration business rules objects. The product solution being configured and designed includes multiple products and sub-products of which a product is composed.

With the inventive intelligent catalog system, suppliers, distributors and channel partners are provided with a total solutions system for configuring and designing a product solution that has sub-products. The inventive catalog system, for example, enables a user to configure, design and purchase a complex product solution, such as a network infrastructure system. A product solution, such as a network infrastructure system, often includes a substantial amount of products and optional accessories (sub-products), all of which need to be configured and designed into an efficient standalone system. When configuring and designing such a system, it is important to be able to determine whether all the parts are compatible with one another. The present system stores product information according to an object model that includes configuration business rule objects. User applications (e.g. tools) provided by the present system use these configuration business rules objects when configuring and designing a product solution that has multiple sub-products. In this way, the system can check for the compatibility of the products selected and suggest products that are more efficient, that have more features, and/or that have a better fit to the selected products.

By way of contrast, Van Etten is directed to a conventional online catalog that offers products. Van Etten's catalog database is essentially a collection of paper catalogs that have been digitized and published online. Van Etten merely displays an item online, lists its details, price, and allows a user to compare similar items from other vendors and to purchase an item by adding it to the user's shopping cart. As such, Van Etten does not relate to the inventive intelligent catalog system that *configures and designs a product solution based on the product information, the product solution having sub-products*, as set forth in Claim 21.

In fact, Van Etten's online catalog is not even capable of handling a complex product, such as the claimed product solution that has sub-products. Van Etten's system is not structured

in the same way as the present system. Specifically, the present intelligent catalog system includes an object model that has *parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business rules objects and procurement rule objects*. With the present intelligent catalog system's object model, product information, including configuration rules (accessory and part compatibility information) can be obtained from multiple vendors, translated by the content translator and stored in the database according to the object model. In this way, the product information can be used by the system to enable a user to design and configure a product solution that includes multiple sub-products. Van Etten does no even contemplate such an arrangement.

Thus, Van Etten does not address the real-world problems experienced by suppliers, distributors and channel partners who make complex systems/solutions for selling, and Van Etten does not disclose the solutions provided by the claimed invention.

Therefore, Van Etten does not disclose the limitations of the claimed invention, namely:

- (a) a database repository storing information about products from one or more vendors according to an object model representing the product information, the object model including parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business rules objects and procurement rule objects, where the object model is capable of handling an unlimited number of objects for each product;
- (b) the configuration business rules objects being stored according to a hierarchy by storing sub-products that a product is comprised of including storing product part replacement information;
- (c) the database repository using a meta data system describing the product information, the meta data system capable of dynamic reconfiguration of user applications when i) new product types are added to the database, or ii) changes are made to a multimedia display user interface;
- (d) a content translator, in communication with the database, converting unstructured product content into structured product content based on the object model and the meta data system, where the content translator indexes the structured product content in the database to create at least a portion of the product information;

(e) the user applications, in communication with the database, using the object model and the meta data system, the user applications including a catalog application and a bill of materials application; and

(f) one or more of the user applications configuring and designing a product solution based on the configuration business rules objects, where the product solution being configured and designed includes one or more products and one or more sub-products, as set forth in Claim 1.

For the reasons discussed above, the limitations of independent Claim 21 are not disclosed by Van Etten.

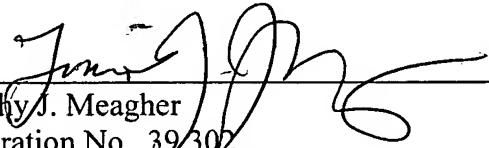
Claims 22-44 depend from base Claim 21. For reasons similar to those set forth above, dependent Claims 22-44 are not disclosed by Van Etten. Thus, Claims 21-44 are in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By   
Timothy J. Meagher  
Registration No. 39,302  
Telephone: (978) 341-0036  
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated:

12/26/6